The Government has, from 1.4.1995, permitted the registration of only those new four-wheeler petrol vehicles in these four metropolitan cities which have been fitted with catalytic converters and designed to use unleaded petrol. By and large, it has not been considered technically feasible or economically viable to retrofit older vehicles with catalytic converters, bearing in mind Indian conditions and the economic costs involved not being commensurate with the environmental advantage realised. It has been felt more advantageous to concentrate on ensuring that new vehicles are fitted with catalytic converters and allowing older vehicles to be gradually phased out.

(b) The measures being taken for control of pollution from on-road vehicles include the following:

(i) State Transport Authorities have been asked to enforce the standards stipulated for on-road vehicles.

(ii) Lead level is planned to be reduced to a maximum of 0.15 grammes per litre in petrol to be supplied throughout the country by December, 1996.

(iii) Intensive awareness campaigns have been launched by Transport Departments of cities including Delhi, to educate people about the statutory punitive provisions related to vehicular pollution, health hazards and about the measures for keeping the emission levels low.

(iv) Various Government Departments have been asked to get the vehicles in their administrative control checked regularly and suitable measures be taken to ensure that the emissions are within the prescribed limits.

(v) A major survey was carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board on the pollution caused by automobiles in the major cities and towns in the country. The findings of the Survey have been used to prepare comprehensive programmes for control of pollution in the major cities.

(vi) City planners have been advised to incorporate in their plan the long-term requirements of mass transportation.

(vii) Steps have been initiated to introduce compressed natural gas in petrol driven vehicles in some of the cities.

Complaints registered by National Human Rights Commission

357. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL Alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of complaints registered by the National Human Rights Commission and thereafter forwarded to Government during the 1994-95; and

(b) what action has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The National Human Rights Commission registered a total number of 6987 complaints during 1994-95. The Commission does not forward the complaints to Government. It calls for reports on the complaints from the concerned authorities wherever warranted and makes appropriate recommendations. Whenever recommendations are received from the Commission, appropriate action is taken by the Government as required under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.